

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 911
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to recognize Edward Mitchell of Jackson, Tennessee for his courage and determination in overcoming physical disability.

WHEREAS, understanding that severe blows are sometimes encountered in life, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those tenacious citizens of our State who have resolved to rise above physical setbacks and make the most of their abilities to maximize their potential as happy and successful members of society; and

WHEREAS, one such determined and resourceful Tennessean is Edward Mitchell of Jackson, who, last year at age 16, was struck in a hit-and-run accident while bicycling on Ashport Road and rendered a paraplegic; and

WHEREAS, though confined to a wheelchair and undergoing physical therapy, Edward continues his education as a Junior at North Side High School and is on the school band's drumline; he plans to attend college following graduation at North Side, majoring in business marketing and sales and minoring in computer programming; and

WHEREAS, having received great support from his family, his classmates and several Jackson area schools, Mr. Mitchell has an optimistic outlook and a positive attitude, exploring the full range of possibilities for wheelchair mobility and holding a cashier's position at Little Caesar's Pizza on North Highland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2004, "Edward Mitchell Day" was declared by Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer and observed at a ceremony at Little Caesar's Pizza in which Edward and his boss, Kevin Colbert, were honored; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colbert, who interviewed Edward for a job at Little Caesar's shortly before his accident, said of him, "Edward was one of the best interviews I have ever had,

including adults I was interviewing for higher positions...Quite simply, Edward has no boundaries.”; and

WHEREAS, Edward Mitchell quickly recognized that the manner in which a disability affects a person depends on one's state of mind; he has observed that "A wheelchair is not a disability. It's an ability to do things other people can't"; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body wish to seize this opportunity to specially recognize the outstanding characteristics of this determined young man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Edward Mitchell for his courage, tenacity and determination to realize his full potential through overcoming the limitations of physical disability, and thank him for his positive example to others facing similar challenges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer him our best wishes for every success and much happiness in the future as he pursues his education and a career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.